

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A user interface framework management system for managing the user interface of a software application, the user interface framework management comprising:
 - 5 a merged application user interface for receiving a software application user interface element of the software application and a component user interface element of a component to be included with the software application;
 - a unification unit for merging the component user interface element with the software user interface element into the merged application user interface; and
 - 10 an identification unit for associating the component with the component user interface element in the merged application user interface.
2. A user interface framework management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the merged application user interface placeholder receives a plurality of software
- 15 application user interface elements.
3. A user interface framework management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the merged application user interface placeholder receives a plurality of component user interface elements.
- 20 4. A user interface framework management system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identification unit disassociates the component from the component user interface element in the merged application user interface.
- 25 5. A method for managing the user interface framework of a software application when installing a component in a software application, the method comprising steps of:
 - receiving a software application user interface element of the software application and a component user interface element of the component in a merged
 - 30 application user interface;

merging the component user interface element with the software user interface element into the merged application user interface; and

associating the component with the component user interface element in the merged application user interface.

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6. The method claimed in claim 5, wherein the merged application user interface receives a plurality of software application user interface elements.

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7. The method claimed in claim 5, wherein the merged application user interface receives a plurality of component user interface elements.

8. A method for managing the user interface framework of a software application when unloading a component from a software application, the method comprising steps of:

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receiving a software application user interface element of the software application and a component user interface element of the component in a merged application user interface, the component being associated with the component user interface element; and

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disassociating the component from the component user interface element in the merged application user interface.

9. The method claim in claim 8, wherein the merged application user interface receives a plurality of software application user interface elements.

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10. The method claim in claim 8, wherein the merged application user interface receives a plurality of component user interface elements.

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11. A method for managing the user interface framework of a software application when reloading a component from a software application, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a software application user interface element of the software

application and a component user interface element of the component in a merged application user interface, the component being disassociated with the component user interface element; and

5 re-associating the component from the component user interface element in the merged application user interface.

12. The method claim in claim 11, wherein the merged application user interface receives a plurality of software application user interface elements.

10 13. The method claim in claim 11, wherein the merged application user interface receives a plurality of component user interface elements.

14. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a
15 method for managing the user interface framework of a software application when installing a component in a software application, the method comprising steps of:
receiving a software application user interface element of the software application and a component user interface element of the component in a merged application user interface;

20 merging the component user interface element with the software user interface element into the merged application user interface; and

associating the component with the component user interface element in the merged application user interface.

25 15. Computer-readable media for storing instructions or statements for use in the execution in a computer of a method for managing the user interface framework of a software application when installing a component in a software application, the method comprising steps of:

30 receiving a software application user interface element of the software

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application and a component user interface element of the component in a merged application user interface;

merging the component user interface element with the software user interface element into the merged application user interface; and

5 associating the component with the component user interface element in the merged application user interface.

16. A computer program product for use in the execution in a computer for creating a user interface framework management system for managing the user interface of a

10 software application, the user interface framework management comprising:

a merged application user interface for receiving a software application user interface element of the software application and a component user interface element of a component to be included with the software application;

15 a unification unit for merging the component user interface element with the software user interface element into the merged application user interface; and

an identification unit for associating the component with the component user interface element in the merged application user interface.